# Habitat Classification Rules California Wildlife Habitat Relationships System

California Department of Fish and Game California Interagency Wildlife Task Group April, 2004

#### Structure

# Composition

# Geographic Region

#### **Tree-Dominated**

≥ 10% total cover by live vegetation in an overstory position; not a desert habitat (per those listed below)

# Hardwood

≥ 50% relative overstory cover by hardwoods and < 25% relative overstory cover by conifers

Hardwood Defined by Species

ASP, EUC, BOW, VOW

Hardwood Defined by Region - Upland

Generally, in non-coastal regions and dominated by montane hardwoods, with or without oaks, or in coastal regions with canyon live oak (*Quercus chrysolepis*), California black oak (*Q. kelloggii*) or Oregon white oak (*Q. garryana*) as the dominant oak. **MHW** 

Generally, in coastal regions with coast live oak (*Q. agrifolia*) as the dominant oak. **COW** 

#### Hardwood-Conifer

≥ 50% relative overstory cover by hardwoods and ≥ 25% relative overstory cover by conifers

MHC, BOP

Hardwood Defined by Region - Riparian

Generally, in montane regions, often intergrading with wet meadows, or in coastal and foothill regions along steep-gradient streams with black cottonwood (*Populus trichocarpa*) or bigleaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*) dominating the overstory. **MRI** 

Generally, in valley and foothill regions along low-gradient streams with Fremont cottonwood (*P. fremontii*), California Sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*) or Valley Oak (*Q. lobata*) dominating the overstory. **VRI** 

#### Conifer

> 50% relative overstory cover by conifers

# **Single Species Conifer**

> 50% relative conifer cover by a single conifer species, regardless of the number of conifer species in the overstory (Note: If dominant conifer species does not have its own CWHR type, see Mixed Conifer below.)

RFR, LPN, WFR, DFR, JPN, RDW, JUN

Single Species Conifer Defined by Region

On the west side of the Sierra Nevada. PPN

In the Southern Cascades, Modoc Plateau and east side of the Sierra Nevada on coarse well-drained basaltic soils. **EPN** 

#### **Mixed Conifer**

≤ 50% relative conifer cover by a single conifer species with ≥ 5% cover by at least one other conifer species

#### or

> 50% relative conifer cover by a single conifer species that does not have its own CWHR type

CPC, PJN

Mixed Conifer Defined by Region

In the Klamath Mountains, on mid-elevation slopes. KMC

In all other mountain ranges, on mid-elevation slopes. SMC

In all mountain ranges at high elevations; characterized by open canopy and trees of low to medium stature. **SCN** 

# Shrub-Dominated

≥ 10% total cover by shrub species and < 10% cover by tree species; not a desert habitat (per those listed below)

#### Single Species Shrub

> 50% relative overstory cover by a single shrub species regardless of the number of shrub species. (Note: If dominant shrub species does not have its own CWHR type, see Mixed Shrub below.)

LSG, BBR, SGB

# **Mixed Shrub**

 $\leq$  50% relative overstory cover by a single shrub species with  $\geq$  5% cover by at least one other shrub species or

> 50% relative overstory cover by a single shrub species that does not have its own CWHR type

ADS, MCH, MCP, CRC, CSC

#### Desert Tree/Shrub

≥ 2% total cover by desert species and < 10% total cover by other tree or shrub species
Desert Tree - POS, JST
Desert Tree/Shrub - DRI, DSW
Desert Shrub - DSS, DSC, ASC

#### **Herbaceous-Dominated**

≥ 2% total cover by herbaceous species and < 10% total cover by tree or shrub species Upland - AGS, PGS, PAS Wetland - WTM, FEW, SEW

# Aquatic

≥ 98% total cover by open water and ≤ 2% total cover by vegetation in the continually-exposed shore zone Freshwater - RIV, LAC Marine - EST, MAR

# Agricultural/Developed

≥ 2% total cover by non-wildland vegetation grown for food, fiber, or landscaping Woody Agricultural - DOR, EOR, VIN
Herbaceous Agricultural - DGR, IGR, IRF, IRH, RIC
Developed - URB

#### Barren

< 2% total cover by any vegetation

BAR